

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 11 and 14-20 are pending in the present Application. Claim 14 is canceled with this Amendment.

The limitation of claim 14 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to recite a composition of the copper electroplating solution. Support for this amendment to claim 6 is found in claim 10. Claim 10 has been amended to recite the step of contacting the substrate to be plated with a copper electroplating solution. This is supported by claim 6.

The Specification has been objected to because of the reference to the Brief Description of the Drawings. Applicants submit that the present amendment to the Specification makes this objection moot. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 10-11 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Applicants submit that this rejection is mooted by the present Amendment and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mikkola et al. (US 2002/0043468).

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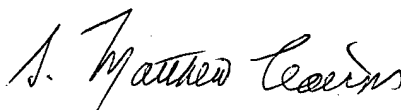
Claims 1-3, 5 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyde (US 3,674,660) in combination with Okinaka et al. (US 4,469,564).

As the same claims are the subject of these 3 rejections, Applicants will address these rejections together. Claim 1 requires the presence of certain peroxy acids of claim 14. Such peroxy acids are neither taught nor suggested in any of the cited references either alone or in any

combination. This is confirmed by the Official Action at page 11, which states that the peroxo acids of claim 14 define over the art. Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Matthew Cairns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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